

Message Text

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TAGS: AORG, EGEN, UN, ECOSOC

SUBJECT: 17TH CPC: BASIC U.S. APPROACH

1. THE BASIC APPROACH FOR THE U.S. DEL AT THE 17TH SESSION
OF THE COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAM AND COORDINATION (CPC) SHOULD
BE TO ATTEMPT TO ORIENT THE WORK OF THE CPC SO THA IT
SERVES PRIMARILY AS THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL FOCAL POINT FOR
UN PROGRAM EVALUATION. WE BELIEVE THE CPC AND THE ADVISORY
COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS (ACABQ)
CAN PLAY PRODUCTIVE COMPLEMENTARY ROLES. THIS WOULD BE
ACHIEVED MOST USEFULLY, ON THE ONE HAND, BY ORIENTING CPC
TOWARD OVERALL PROGRAM EVALUATION FOR WHICH IT, COMPARED
TO ACABQ, SHOULD BE BETTER QUALIFIED SINCE IT IS AN INTER-
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GOVERNMENTAL BODY REPRESENTING THE CONTRIBUTORS AND
INTENDED BENEFICIARIES OF UN PROGRAMS. ON THE OTHER HAND,
DETAILED BUDGET ANALYSIS, FOR WHICH CPC HAS NEITHER THE
EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCE NOR TIME, IS MORE OF A TECHNICAL
EXERCISE BETTER LEFT TO THE EXPERTS OF THE ACABQ. IT IS
IMPORTANT THAT THE ROLES OF CPC AND ACABQ REMAIN DISTINCT
AND COMPLEMENTARY, AND NOT BE ALLOWED TO BECOME WASTEFULLY

COMPETITIVE. SIGNIFICANT MUTUAL BENEFITS ARE POSSIBLE BY

CPC AND ACABQ EACH CAREFULLY RESPECTING THE OTHER'S APPROPRIATE ROLE.

2. ALSO IN DEFINING THE ROLE OF CPC, USDEL MAY DRAW ON PARA. 11 OF UNGA RESOLUTION 31/93 (MEDIUM-TERM PLAN). WE PLACE SPECIAL IMPORTANCE, IN PARTICULAR, ON SUBPARA. 11(B) WHICH INSTRUCTS CPC QUOTE TO DETERMINE WHICH PROGRAMS, SUBPROGRAMS OR PROGRAM ELEMENTS ARE OBSOLETE, OF MARGINAL USEFULNESS OR INEFFECTIVE AND TO RECOMMEND, AS APPROPRIATE, THEIR CURTAILMENT OR TERMINATION. UNQUOTE IN THIS REGARD, USDEL MAY CALL ATTENTION TO PARA. 9 OF THE SAME RESOLUTION WHICH QUOTE STRESSES THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL UNQUOTE TO ASSIST IN THE IDENTIFICATION OF ACTIVITIES THAT MAY BE APPROPRIATE FOR CURTAILMENT OR TERMINATION. WE BELIEVE THE SYG MUST BE HELD FULLY ACCOUNTABLE FOR FULFILLING HIS RESPONSIBILITY WHICH IS SO IMPORTANT FOR THIS EXERCISE TO BE SUCCESSFUL. RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM BUDGETING IN THE UN REQUIRES EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SYG.

3. IN REVIEWING THE PROPOSED UN PROGRAM BUDGET FOR 1978-1979, WE EXPECT THE CPC TO PAY SPECIAL HEED TO PARA. 6 OF UNGA RESOLUTION 31/93. ACCORDING TO PARA. 6, WE PRESUME THAT THE PROGRAM BUDGET FOR 1978-1979 WILL CONTAIN NO BUDGET REQUESTS FOR ACTIVITIES BEYOND THE SCOPE OF THE APPROVED MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR 1978-1981 UNLESS THERE HAS ARISEN QUOTE A PRESSING NEED OF AN UNFORESEEABLE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NATURE...AS DETERMINED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. UNQUOTE IN THIS REGARD, PARA. 7 OF THE SAME RESOLUTION INDICATES THAT THE SYG SHOULD BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR ENSURING COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PLANNING AND PROGRAM BUDGETING PROCEDURE. ONCE AGAIN IT BECOMES CLEAR THAT RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM BUDGETING IN THE UN REQUIRES EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SYG.

4. AS APPROPRIATE, USDEL MAY DRAW ON THE ABOVE FOR THE PURPOSES OF AN OPENING STATEMENT IF ONE APPEARS TO BE DESIRABLE. USDEL SHOULD HOWEVER AVOID QUOTE PERSONALIZING UNQUOTE CRITICISMS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL. WE WISH TO FIX RESPONSIBILITY FOR MANAGING THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE SYG OF COURSE BUT WE ARE FULLY AWARE THAT THE ACTUAL MANAGERIAL FUNCTIONS MUST BE DISCHARGED BY HIS SUBORDINATES IN THEIR DEFINED ROLES.

5. AT ITS DISCRETION, USDEL MAY SEEK TO ELIMINATE ALL SUMMARY RECORDS FOR CPC, OR AT LEAST TO LIMIT THEM TO THE

EXTENT POSSIBLE. WE BELIEVE CPC FUNCTIONS MOST EFFECTIVELY IN AN INFORMAL MANNER AND THE FINAL REPORT SHOULD BE A SUFFICIENT RECORD OF ITS PROCEEDINGS.

6. IN CONSIDERATION OF JOINT INSPECTION UNIT (JIU) QUOTE REPORT ON EVALUATION IN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM UNQUOTE (JIU/REP/77/1) BY EARL D. SOHM, USDEL SHOULD BE FULLY SUPPORTIVE OF SOHM'S CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS, ESPECIALLY REGARDING THE ROLE OF THE JIU. TALKING POINTS FOLLOW:

A. REPORT PROVIDES USEFUL AND COMPACT HISTORY OF EVALUATION IN THE UN SYSTEM WHICH WELL DOCUMENTS THE NEED FOR MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS.

B. IN EFFORTS TO MEET THIS MAJOR NEED, WE STRONGLY SUPPORT SOHM'S RECOMMENDATION FOR USING A GRADUAL APPROACH WHICH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WOULD ALLOW MAKING RESOURCES AVAILABLE FROM EXISTING RELATED ACTIVITIES, SUCH AS THE PROGRAM PLANNING, INFORMATION AND REPORTING SYSTEM WHICH SHOULD BE PART OF AN OVERALL INTEGRATED SYSTEM EMBRACING EVALUATION.

C. WE BELIEVE THE SOHM REPORT USEFULLY HIGHLIGHTS THE NEED FOR TOP-LEVEL SUPPORT AND INTEREST IN EVALUATION IN ORDER TO MAKE IT EFFECTIVE.

D. FINDING A USEFUL COMMON DEFINITION OF EVALUATION IS DIFFICULT, BUT A KEY APPEARS TO BE THE IDEA SUGGESTED BY SOHM OF COMPARING RESULTS AGAINST OBJECTIVES, WHICH IN TURN IMPLIES THE IMPORTANCE OF CLEARLY STATED OBJECTIVES AND PERFORMANCE-INDICATORS.

E. WE STRONGLY AGREE WITH SOHM THAT QUOTE THE GREAT BULK OF EVALUATION CARRIED OUT WITHIN THE UN SYSTEM WILL BE INTERNAL EVALUATION UNQUOTE WHICH SHOULD BE QUOTE AN INTEGRAL AND CONTRIBUTORY PART OF THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS.UNQUOTE

F. WE FULLY SUPPORT THE RECOMMENDATIONS INCLUDED IN THE REPORT, ESPECIALLY REGARDING WHAT THE JIU SHOULD DO.

G. WE BELIEVE CPC SHOULD AT LEAST BIENNIALY REVIEW THE STATUS OF EVALUATION SYSTEMS IN THE UN SYSTEM, PERHAPS DRAWING ON THE BIENNIAL JIU REPORT SUGGESTED IN PARAGRAPH 92 OF SOHM'S REPORT.

H. WE FIND VERY USEFUL THE REPORT IN ANNEX I ON THE CURRENT STATUS OF EVALUATION WITHIN THE UN ITSELF. THE

CPC REVIEW OF THE FIRST INTERNAL EVALUATION REPORTS WILL
PROVIDE A USEFUL OPPORTUNITY TO CONSIDER THE EXTENT TO
WHICH FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS WILL BE REQUIRED VANCE

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